

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1(original). A foot covering for enclosing a wearer's forefoot, instep, heel and ankle while wearing footwear lacking an enclosed heel, comprising:

a sock including a first fabric layer having respective toe, instep and heel base portions sized to enclose the wearer's foot inserted through a sock opening extended above said heel base portion, said first fabric layer is composed of a thin elastic material and includes a transition seam circumferentially disposed across said instep portion of said first fabric layer; and

a second fabric material disposed to cover the wearer's instep, heel and ankle, said second fabric material having a leading edge attached to said transition seam on said instep portion of said first fabric layer, said second fabric material having a thickness greater than said first fabric layer and having an ankle portion extended a sufficient length above said heel base portion of said first fabric layer to encircle the wearer's ankle;

whereby said thin first fabric layer encloses the wearer's forefoot and minimizes stretching of footwear worn with said sock, and said second fabric material covers the wearer's instep, heel and ankle for warmth while wearing footwear lacking an enclosed heel.

Claim 2 (original). The foot covering of Claim 1 wherein said first fabric layer includes said toe, instep and heel base portions extending to encircle the foot and forming a substantially continuous sole portion of said thin elastic material

having a low coefficient of friction thereby maximizing ease of insertion of the wearer's forefoot enclosed by said first fabric layer into footwear lacking an enclosed heel without stretching a forefoot portion of the footwear.

Claim 3 (original). The foot covering of Claim 2 wherein said transition seam of said first fabric layer extends to circumferentially traverse an upper half of said instep portion of said first fabric layer, said upper half of said instep portion encircling the wearer's foot proximal of a medial arch, an instep and an outer side of the wearer's foot without extending along said sole portion of said first fabric layer.

Claim 4 (original). The foot covering of Claim 2 wherein said first fabric layer includes a first material selected from the group consisting of a natural fibrous material interwoven with a synthetic elastic textile material.

Claim 5 (original). The foot covering of Claim 1 wherein said second fabric material includes said leading perimeter attached to said transition seam of said first fabric layer along an upper portion of the wearer's instep, said second fabric material extending distally from said leading perimeter to enclose the heel and ankle of the wearer's foot without enclosing a sole of the wearer's foot, thereby only said first fabric layer encloses the sole of the wearer's foot.

Claim 6 (original). The foot covering of Claim 5 wherein said second fabric material includes an elastic material interwoven with a second material selected

from the group consisting of wool, cotton, silk, nylon, acrylic fibers, polyester fibers, and polypropylene fibers.

Claim 7 (original). The foot covering of Claim 4 wherein said second fabric material includes a second layer of material disposed in overlying relation of said transition seam and extending to said heel base portion of said first fabric layer, said second layer of material selected from the group consisting of wool, cotton, silk, nylon, acrylic fibers, polyester fibers, polypropylene fibers, and elastic fibers.

Claim 8 (original). A foot covering enclosing a wearer's foot and ankle while wearing footwear lacking a heel enclosure, comprising:

a tubular sock including a first fabric layer composed of a thin resiliently stretchable material sized to enclose the wearer's foot within respective toe, forefoot, instep and heel portions, said first fabric layer having a transition seam circumferentially disposed proximal of said instep portion; and

a second fabric layer of material having a thickness greater than said first fabric layer, said second fabric layer having a leading edge attached in overlying orientation to said transition seam of said first fabric layer, and having body and ankle portions sized to cover the heel and ankle of the wearer's foot;

whereby said first fabric layer encloses the wearer's forefoot in thin material to minimize stretching of footwear and said second fabric layer covers the wearer's heel and ankle for warmth while wearing footwear lacking the heel enclosure.

Claim 9 (original). The foot covering of Claim 8 wherein said first fabric layer includes said thin stretchable material a low coefficient of friction thereby

maximizing ease of insertion of the wearer's forefoot enclosed by said first fabric layer into footwear lacking the heel enclosure without excessive stretching of a forefoot portion of the footwear by the wearer's forefoot covered by said first fabric layer.

Claim 10 (original). The foot covering of Claim 9 wherein said transition seam of said first fabric layer extends circumferentially around a mid-portion of said sock, said mid-portion encircling the wearer's foot proximal of a medial arch, an instep and an outer side of the wearer's foot.

Claim 11 (original). The foot covering of Claim 10 wherein said thin stretchable material is selected from the group consisting of a natural fibrous material interwoven with a synthetic elastic textile material.

Claim 12 (original). The foot covering of Claim 8 wherein said second fabric layer includes a fabric material having a thick density and having said perimeter edge attached to said transition seam of said first fabric layer, said second fabric layer extends distally from said transition seam to enclose lateral surfaces of the wearer's heel and ankle.

Claim 13 (original). The foot covering of Claim 12 wherein said second fabric layer includes material selected from the group consisting of wool, cotton, silk, nylon, acrylic fibers, polyester fibers, polypropylene fibers, and elastic fibers.

Claim 14 (original). A sock enclosing a wearer's foot and ankle to facilitate wearing of footwear lacking a heel enclosure, comprising:

a tubular sock including a first fabric layer composed of a thin resiliently stretchable material sized to enclose the wearer's foot in respective toe, forefoot, instep and heel portions, said first fabric layer having a transition seam circumferentially disposed proximal of said instep portion; and

a second fabric layer of material having a thickness greater than said first fabric layer, said second fabric layer having a leading edge attached in overlaying orientation to said transition seam of said first fabric layer, and having body and ankle portions sized to cover the heel and ankle of the wearer's foot;

whereby said first fabric layer encloses the wearer's forefoot in thin material to minimize stretching of footwear and said second fabric layer covers the wearer's heel and ankle for warmth while wearing footwear lacking the heel enclosure.

Claim 15 (withdrawn). The sock of Claim 14 wherein said first fabric layer enclosing said toe portion of the wearer's foot includes at least one toe pocket for enclosure of the wearer's big toe separate from the first fabric layer of thin resiliently stretchable material enclosing the remaining toes, forefoot, instep and heel of the wearer.

Claim 16 (currently amended). The sock of Claim [15] 14 wherein said first fabric layer includes said thin stretchable material having a low coefficient of friction thereby maximizing ease of insertion of the wearer's forefoot enclosed by said first fabric layer into a forefoot portion of footwear lacking the heel enclosure without stretching of the forefoot portion of footwear by the wearer's forefoot covered by said first fabric layer.

Claim 17 (original). The sock of Claim 16 wherein said transition seam of said first fabric layer extends circumferentially around said instep portion of said sock, said instep portion encircling the wearer's foot proximal of a medial arch, an instep and an outer side of the wearer's foot.

Claim 18 (original). The sock of Claim 17 wherein said thin stretchable material is selected from the group consisting of a natural fibrous material interwoven with a synthetic elastic textile material.

Claim 19 (original). The sock of Claim 14 wherein said second fabric layer includes a fabric material having a thick density and having said leading edge attached to said transition seam of said first fabric layer, said second fabric layer extends distally of said transition seam to enclose lateral surfaces of the wearer's heel and ankle.

Claim 20 (original). The sock of Claim 19 wherein said second fabric layer includes material selected from the group consisting of wool, cotton, silk, nylon, acrylic fibers, polyester fibers, polypropylene fibers, and elastic fibers.